

**April 2023 Newsletter**



**2023 McNair Reception**

Established in Fall 2018, the McNair Scholars Graduate Network currently boasts 25 McNair Scholar\* alumni pursuing graduate degrees here at the University of Utah. This network serves as a means for McNair alumni to connect with one another, foster new friendships, and serve as an additional support system while also connecting with the Graduate Diversity Office as they make progress towards degree completion.

*\*McNair Scholars are high achieving first-generation/low-income or underrepresented students (African American/Black, American Indian/Alaska Native, Hispanic, Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander) who engage in rigorous undergraduate research under the guidance of a faculty mentor. These students benefit from intensive graduate school preparation workshops and seminars to shape them into strong candidates for graduate school – especially Ph.D. programs.*

This year we held a reception on Friday, March 31, 2023 to honor our graduate students that are part of the McNair Scholars Graduate Network. We invited students from the McNair Scholars Graduate Network at the U, the McNair Scholars Program from Westminster College and former McNair Scholars living in the area to join us. Staff from The Graduate School and Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Division were there to support our students, including newly appointed Dean of the Graduate School, Dr. Darryl Butt.

**Graduate Student Highlights**

**Janet Reyes**



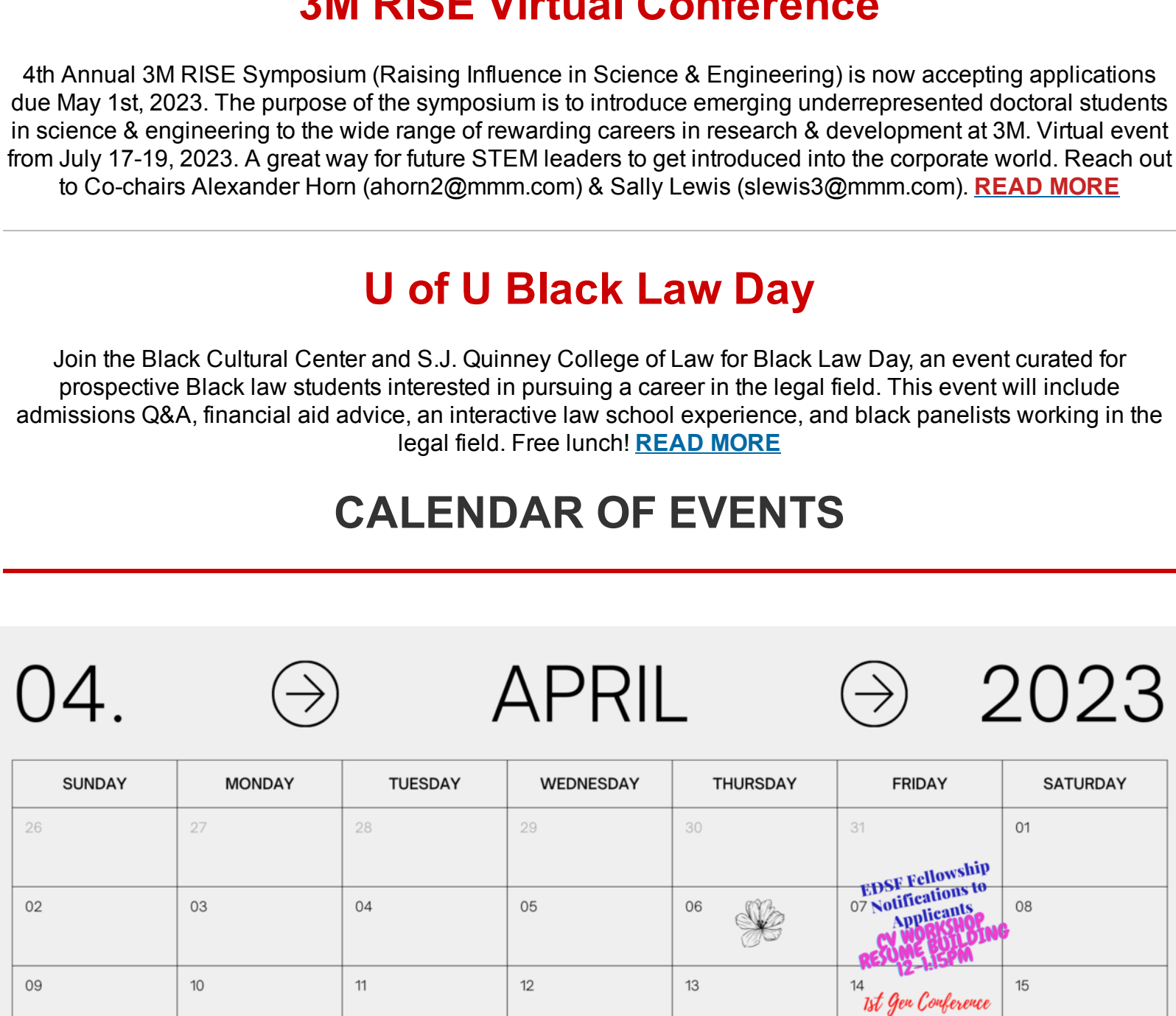
Janet Reyes is a proudly Mexican immigrant woman, a first-generation college student and has English as her second language. She was born in Fairfield, California but raised in Guadalajara, Jalisco, Mexico. Eight years ago, she and her family left their beautiful home country, Mexico, with the hope of a better future in the United States. However, when she arrived to Utah, her life was not easy. She did not know any English and they did not have a house. She and her family were living in her uncle's basement. While attending high school, she faced discrimination from teachers and students because of her culture, race, and accent. Despite encountering discrimination, she never gave up and fought for her dreams in life. She graduated from high school in 2018. After that, she continued her education at Salt Lake Community College and graduated with an Associate of Science in Psychology in 2019. Then, she transferred to the University of Utah and graduated in 2021 with a Bachelor's in Psychology, a minor in Sociology and a Certificate in Positive Psychology. She will now receive a Master's in Education, Leadership and Policy with an Emphasis in Student Affairs this upcoming May.

**Jasmine Girgenti**



My name is Jasmine Guanzon Girgenti. I am graduating with a dual master's degree in social work and public administration in 2023. I was born in Saipan, also known as Northern Marianas Island, which is part of the U.S. territory Micronesia region. I am a first-generation Asian American Pacific Islander woman who made it despite all the odds and barriers. I faced based on my intersectionality. My goal is to bring justice and equity to treating underserved populations suffering the consequences of systematic errors within policies. I worked as a Graduate Assistant for two years at the Center for Equity and Student Belonging. I had the opportunity to collaborate with staff and students, facilitating events and activities in all student organizations. For my second year, I spent my time as the GA for Diversity Scholars, guiding first-year students in navigating campus resources and student engagement. As an MSW candidate, I've completed my practicum with two organizations associated with the University of Utah. I've completed my first practicum with Neighbors Helping Neighbors. This program offered services to older adults in the community by collaborating with community partners to address the unmet needs of older adults and help them live independently in their own homes. For my second year, I worked at Utah Neighborhood Partners (UNP), a nonprofit organization serving the west side of Salt Lake City. UNP is well-connected and has established partnerships with multiple organizations to provide easier access and guidance for community members utilizing available resources. Most of the community members who attend our program are refugees.

**Sussy Jones**



My name is Sussy Alvarez, I am originally from Chile. I have called the United States home for over twenty years. After devoting nearly two decades to raising my children as a stay-at-home mom, I embarked on an incredible academic journey. Starting with a bachelor's degree in history and a minor in biology from Utah State University at Tooele. Graduating magna cum laude, I was a proud recipient of the Preston and Nibley Scholarship during my undergraduate studies. I demonstrated my committing to both my studies and my community by volunteering in the biology lab, serving as student vice president, and providing interpretation services to support the Latino community. My academic prowess and determination led me to pursue a master's degree in Latin American history from the University of Utah, with a focus on gender studies. For my research project, I conducted a case study on sexual harassment in public spaces in Chile, which enabled me to return to Santiago to gather oral histories. While at the University of Utah, I received the Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowship to study Portuguese and was awarded scholarships from both the history and Latin American departments to support my research in Chile. In addition to my research work, I serve as a teaching assistant in the history department and have also worked as a research assistant. Throughout my academic journey, I remain grateful for the guidance and support of professors and mentors who believe in my goals. I am set to graduate in May, eager to apply my knowledge and experiences to make a meaningful impact on the world.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Fellowship Deadline**

2023 Morgan Stanley Community Development Graduate Fellowship application deadline Friday, May 5, 2023. Please see website for details. [READ MORE](#)

**3M RISE Virtual Conference**

4th Annual 3M RISE Symposium (Raising Influence in Science & Engineering) is now accepting applications due May 1st, 2023. The purpose of the symposium is to introduce emerging underrepresented doctoral students in science & engineering to the wide range of rewarding careers in research & development at 3M. Virtual event from July 17-19, 2023. A great way for future STEM leaders to get introduced into the corporate world. Reach out to Co-chairs Alexander Horn (ahorn2@mmm.com) & Sally Lewis (slewis3@mmm.com). [READ MORE](#)

**U of U Black Law Day**

Join the Black Cultural Center and S.J. Quinney College of Law for Black Law Day, an event curated for prospective Black law students interested in pursuing a career in the legal field. This event will include admissions Q&A, financial aid advice, an interactive law school experience, and black panelists working in the legal field. Free lunch! [READ MORE](#)

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**04. APRIL 2023**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
26	27	28	29	30	31	01
02	03	04	05	06	07 <i>EMSE Fellowship Notifications to Applicants 12:00pm - 3:30pm</i>	08
09	10	11	12	13	14 <i>1st Gen Conference 10:00am - 3:30pm</i>	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26 <i>BIPOC Monthly Social 12:00pm - 3:00pm</i>	27	28	29
30	01	02	03	04	05	06



COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF UTAH

## 2023 MORGAN STANLEY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT GRADUATE FELLOWSHIP

Are you a graduate student looking for hands-on experience working with a local nonprofit? Do you have a strong interest in community development-based work? Apply for the Morgan Stanley Community Development Graduate Fellowship!

Each year, this Fellowship pairs talented graduate students with high-performing community development organizations. The Fellowship, which runs from September 2023 to June 2024, supports projects in the fields of affordable housing, economic development, and community planning. Applicants must be enrolled in their academic program through the full academic year of the Fellowship.

### APPLICATIONS ARE DUE MAY 5TH, 2023.

Fellowship Benefits Include:

- A \$20,000 stipend for the ten-month (September 1st – June 30th), part-time (20 hours per week) Fellowship
- The opportunity to meet with leaders in Utah government, private sector, philanthropic sector, and community development fields
- Access to Fellowship & Alumni Programming and other trainings and workshops
- High-quality training and mentorship at some of Utah's best community development organizations

Graduate level students from underrepresented backgrounds and students with experience or backgrounds serving low-to-moderate income (LMI) communities are strongly encouraged to apply.

Visit [utahcf.org](http://utahcf.org) > Impact > Initiatives to learn more and apply



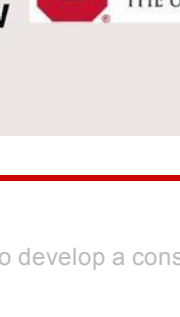



Thinking of Law School?  
SJQ is for YOU!

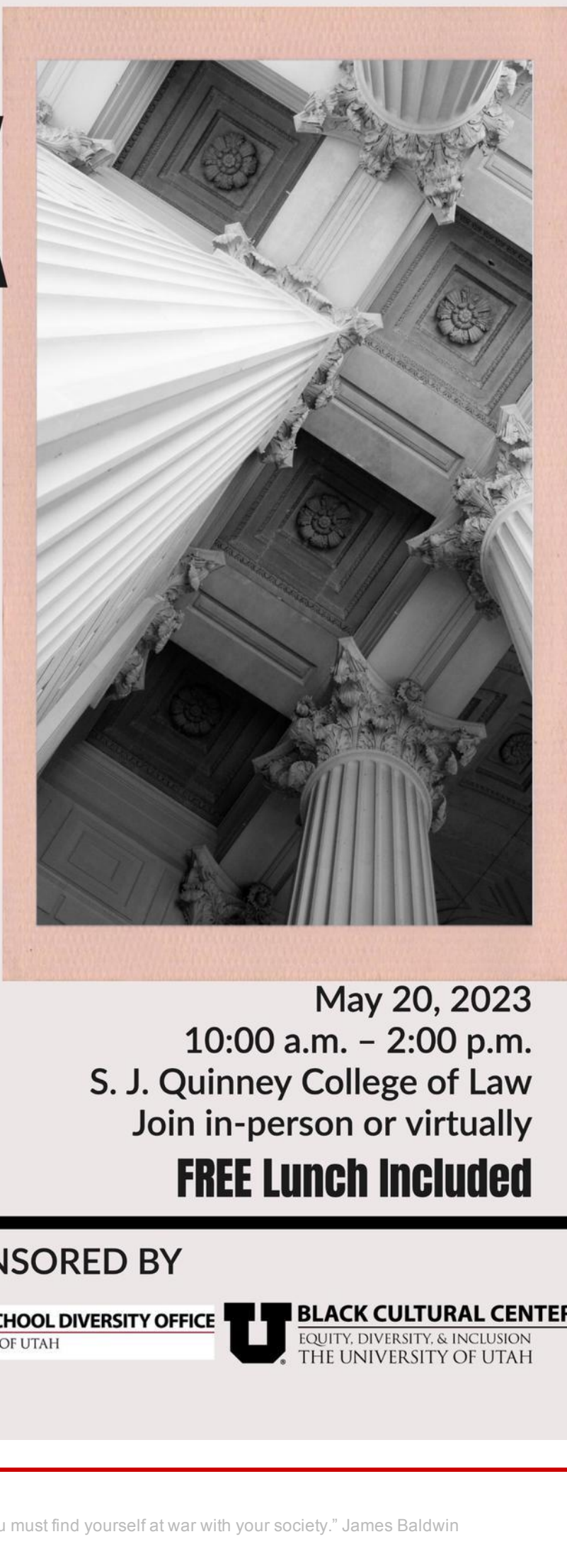
# BLACK LAW DAY



SCAN  
TO  
REGISTER



Join us for a mock class,  
panelists consisting of  
lawyers and law students,  
and a tour of SJQ!



May 20, 2023  
10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.  
S. J. Quinney College of Law  
Join in-person or virtually  
**FREE Lunch Included**

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GRADUATE SCHOOL DIVERSITY OFFICE  
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BLACK CULTURAL CENTER  
EQUITY, DIVERSITY, & INCLUSION  
THE UNIVERSITY OF UTAH

"Precisely at the point when you begin to develop a conscience you must find yourself at war with your society." James Baldwin

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